THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stretches of Mahanadi at Cuttack and Bhrahmini at Talcher, Chandbali and Dharamshala towns have been identified as polluted rivers in Orissa.

(c) Discharge of untreated domestic and industrial waste into the rivers is the main source of pollution of these rivers.

(d) Pollution abatement of these rivers has been taken up under the National River Conservation Plan. The programme includes such components as interception, diversion and treatment of domestic waste, construction of low cost toilets, improved wood crematoria and ghats, and creating public awareness. The approved cost of the programme is Rs. 11.28 crore. Pollution from industries is tackled under environmental laws.

Development of coastal area of Konkan

5068. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for the development of coastal area of Konkan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the proposals are pending for approval/sanction of the Union Govenment;

(d) whether any scheme related to Ratnagiri District has been included in the proposal; and

(e) if so, by when the pending proposal are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) A proposal for environmental clearance of the proposed Mumbai-Mahad Expressway was received in this Ministry on 20.09.1998. However, the file on the above has been closed since requisite information has not been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) No proposal relating to Ratnagiri District has been received.

(e) Does not arise.